

T³: Today's Teaching Tip

Careful what you say...

How does what we call something affect our teaching and students' learning?

Homework – The word carries a great deal of negative baggage. How many students look forward to doing homework? How about ... “**warm-up exercises**”, other alternatives that motivate students to do it?

Participation – For most of us the word triggers thoughts of teacher-student verbal exchanges. Participation rewards students who talk and implies that they're the ones who are engaged. Alternatively, we can think of using “**classroom engagement activities**” because this broadens what counts as participation.

Go over – Ask teachers what they plan to do after the exam and they will say they'll “go over” the most missed questions. “Go over” sounds like a high flying pass through the notes and over the questions. Wouldn't “**getting into**” both be a more productive option?

For more details, go to the article about [Word choice](#).